Payment of damages from Licencees under UASL

410. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom, under the Unified Access Service Licencing (UASL) scheme, launched in 2003, permitted basic and cellular service licencees to migrate to UASL regime;

(b) whether delays and non-fulfilment of terms of first and second phase roll out, rendered the licencees liable to pay liquidated damages to DoT, amounting to more than Rs. 400 crores; and

(c) the steps being taken to realize the liquidated damages from the defaulting licencees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Delays and non-fulfilment of terms of first and second phase roll out, rendered the licensees liable to pay Liquidated Damages (LD) to DoT. The amount of revised LD to be recovered from various Licensees is being worked out as per terms and conditions of amendments issued on 10.02.2009.

Quality of mobile services of BSNL

411. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of the mobile signals of BSNL is unsatisfactory and there is frequent breakdown in mobile communication system in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down the benchmarks for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services through a Regulation on Quality of Service for basic and cellular mobile telephone services, 2005 dated 1-7-2005. TRAI monitors the performance of the service providers through the Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) and monthly congestion reports submitted by the service providers. As per PMR for the quarter ending September 2008, BSNL Cellular Mobile Telephone services is generally meeting the benchmarks for network related parameters such as Service Access Delay [Benchmark – average of 100 calls =<15 sec], Stand–alone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH) Congestion [Benchmark <1.00%], Traffic Channel (TCH) Congestion [Benchmark <2.00%], Call Drop and percentage of connection with good voice quality, with the following exceptions:-